

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 COME-00 FAA-00 H-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 124675

R 021418Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3531

INFO FAA BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 9136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, LE

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIVE AIRLINE PRACTICES

REF: STATE A-4134; STATE 144455

1. RESTRICTIVE OR DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES USED BY GOL WHICH MAY ADVERSELY EFFECT THE ABILITY OF PAN AM TO COMPETE FAIRLY IN THIS MARKET ARE MINIMUM. PAN AM DIRECTOR, LYLE GRACE, INDICATES THAT TOTAL OPERATING ENVIRONMENT FOR PAN AM HERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE. THERE ARE NO CURRENCY CONVERSION REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES WHICH PROHIBIT PAN AM FROM REMITTING DOLLARS FROM LOCAL EARNINGS NOR ARE THERE FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS IMPOSED BY GOL WHICH GIVE PERSONS PREFERENCE IF THEY TRAVEL ON MEA RATHER THAN PAN AM. PRINCIPAL ITEM OF DISCRIMINATION APPEARS TO BE WAIVER OF LANDING-FEE PAYMENTS FROM MEA AND TMA TO GOL. ALTHOUGH THIS IS FAIRLY FIRM IMPRESSION ON OUR PART, THERE IS NO PROOF THAT THIS WAIVER DOES IN FACT EXIST.

3. MEA AND TMA ARE GIVEN PREFERENCE IN FACILITIES OFFERED AT BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. FOR EXAMPLE, TMA'S CARGO TERMINAL ALSO INCLUDES A GOL CUSTOMS FACILITY. THIS SPECIAL CUSTOMS FACILITY IS NOT AVAILABLE TO PAN AM AT ITS OWN CARGO FACILITY. ADDITIONALLY, MEA HAS MUCH GREATER

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OFFICE AND TICKET COUNTER SPACE AT THE TERMINAL THAN

APPEARS TO BE WARRANTED BY THE VOLUME OF ITS SERVICES
VIS-A-VIS PAN AM AND OTHER FOREIGN-FLAG CARRIERS.

4. PAN AM IS DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACT AS A HANDLING
AGENT FOR OTHER FOREIGN-FLAG CARRIERS SINCE THIS FUNCTION
IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO MEA, LEBANESE AIR TRANSPORT AND
LEBANESE HELICOPTER COMPANY.

5. LASTLY PAN AM IS NOT IN A POSITION TO CATER ITS
OWN FLIGHTS IN BEIRUT WITH AN IN-FLIGHT KITCHEN AT THE
AIRPORT. THE ONLY PREPARATION OF ON-BOARD MEALS ON THE
BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREMISES IS CONTROLLED BY AN
EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE HOLDER (ALBERT ABELA), A LEBANESE
CATERING FIRM.
BUFFUM

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Message Attributes

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